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training are using this epidemic situation to advance the arguments we have all had to fight in drafting our state laws. The solution of the problem will never be reached by six months' or one year's training. Such courses would lead to many undesirable women passing as nurses. Even with a state license for such nurses, the public would not always know the difference and the nursing profession would suffer from poor work done by them. The best solution I can see for the situation is extension of home nursing lessons as outlined by the Red Cross Chapter. Particularly, give these home nursing lessons to all high school girls. The ignorance of some mothers on the first principles of hygiene or home nursing is a crime against our American civilization. My experience with the epidemic of influenza in trying to get patients properly isolated and to even get mothers to wash the patients' dishes properly, shows the lack of common knowledge that every mother should have. However, we need some stringent laws to prevent profiteering in epidemics. The graduates of this community have done finely. Many have worked for weeks with the influenza for \$35.00 a week, but our so-called practical nurses have charged \$6, \$7, and \$10 a day. We know that this year has been extraordinary in many ways, and the nursing profession must expect its share of difficulty. As is usually the case, we should gain in the end, but we can't let down the bars in the nursing world.

South Dakota

M. V. W.

### RECONSTRUCTION

Dear Editor: In reading Miss Stewart's contribution on Reconstruction, I could not but feel that one of the questions the nursing profession should consider, is that of hospital and training school officials. It is a self-evident fact that we need a greater degree of efficiency in hospital and training school management. How can we secure it? Require all prospective superintendents, be they physicians, graduate nurses or laymen; all assistant superintendents, all training school superintendents, floor supervisors, teachers, operating-room supervisors, night supervisors, etc., to pass an examination and secure a certificate or license before they can accept or fill certain positions. The public school teacher, who is entrusted with the teaching of the children in the public schools; the college professor, who instructs the students in our colleges, are licensed; then why should the hospital official, who is responsible to the public for the education of the student nurse; the training school superintendent, who is largely responsible for the high standards of the profession; the hospital superintendent, who is responsible to the public for the degree of service rendered it, be exempt? If this were done, we would not find graduates of a twenty-bed hospital assuming the responsibilities of a fifty-bed hospital; we would not find improperly trained, unethical women assuming the training of young women in our training schools. We would eliminate incompetents, thereby raising the standard in all training schools, which would result advantageously, in that better trained women would leave the training schools. There are hospital superintendents (laymen), who undertake the management of the affairs of a hospital, but who have absolutely no knowledge of the needs of the patient. Because they are wizards in making money for the hospital, they are considered good hospital executives. Is "making money" the motive for a hospital's existence? It should be a place where the ills of the body are cared for in a scientific manner, where sympathy and human kindness are found. How many patients leave our hospitals with a feeling of distrust? They are disillusioned; instead of becoming ardent advocates of the institution, they become severe critics. The woman who accepts a hospital position,

must make sacrifices; she must have been tried and tested in the furnace, and must have emerged a better woman. She must be a living example of her teachings. Would a licensed superintendent refuse to sign a requisition for extra eggs needed on a floor, or one for extra linen, needed for a profuse drainage case, or for a breast pump, needed for a badly caked breast? Not if he had been trained for the position he is filling. Would a training school superintendent do fancy work while on duty, spend the time she is supposed to be on duty, in making social calls? Not if she had been trained for the position she is filling. Would the night supervisor be satisfied to spend her time on duty either in reading novels, doing fancy work, or sleeping, instead of teaching the pupil nurses how to manage their floors, reading the night orders, and seeing to it that they are properly carried out? Not if she had been trained for the position she is holding, instead of filling. Would the operating-room supervisor present an untidy, dirty appearance, and at the same time undertake to teach pupil nurses surgical asepsis? Not if she were a licensed woman. If pupil nurses were under daily supervision of properly trained women, would they neglect the dusting of beds, chairs, etc. (not the visible, but the invisible parts of these articles of furniture); would they neglect the many little things, which really become the big things, after the patient leaves the hospital? If we want a good product from a training school, we must have an efficient personnel; one that will work in harmony; we can secure this sort of personnel only by licensing the hospital official. If graduate nurses want hospital positions, let them qualify for these positions; if a layman wants to manage the business affairs of a hospital, let him, first of all, be instructed in the little things that mean so much to the patient, such as the necessity for clean sheets, the necessity for extra nourishment, the necessity for heat during the night, where there are ill patients who require treatments during the night, etc. To-day, we should demand specially trained people for the positions they fill. We do not, as a rule, find a general practitioner undertaking a Cesarean Section; that is performed in most hospitals by a man trained for the work; we do not find a nose, ear, and throat specialist prescribing for a typhoid fever patient; he refers such a patient to the medical man. Why then, should the training of pupil nurses be entrusted to graduate nurses who are not qualified to do full justice to the work they have undertaken? Let the nursing profession make the same strides forward as the medical profession is making.

Michigan

E. M. M.